



Socorro-Catron County Farm Service Agency
Office Location: *103 Neel St NW*
Mailing Address: *PO Box DD*
Socorro, New Mexico 87801-0537
Office Hours: *8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (Monday – Friday)*
Telephone: *(575) 835-1710, ext. 2 Fax: (575) 835-3872*
September 2008

SOCORRO-CATRON AGRICULTURAL NEWS

County Committee meetings are the first Wednesday following the first Monday of each month at 10:00 A.M.



2008 SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into public law on June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance". To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

Five new Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs were created: The four programs subject to the Risk Management Purchase Requirement waiver are:

- **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program**
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)**

NOTE: The fifth new disaster program, the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**, is exempt from the Risk Management Purchase Requirement and, therefore, does not require a waiver.

LFP producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, a plan of insurance of NAP coverage for the grazing land incurring losses for which assistance is being requested. To be considered to have met the Risk Management Purchase Requirement, producers must pay a "**Buy-In**" fee in an amount equal to the applicable CAT fee and/or NAP fee for those crops that currently do not have NAP coverage by **COB September 16, 2008**.

Producers who want to Buy-in to these disaster programs must visit their administrative County FSA Office to complete CCC-752 for insurable crops and CCC-753 for non-insurable crops. The "buy-in" fee for both CAT and NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Call the Socorro Catron FSA Office at 575-835-1710 for more information or come by the office.

To meet the provisions of the 2008 disaster programs, producers who wish to participate in 2008 and future year's permanent disaster programs **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest. This includes crops on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed or grazed.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

This year our COC Elections will be held in LAA3 and LAA5. LAA3 is located on the east side of Catron County and west side of Socorro County. It includes the Magdalena, Alamo Indian Reservation, Winston, and Dusty areas. John Hand Jr. currently represents this area, however, due to term limitations will not be eligible for re-election this year. Ruth Ann Harriet of Datil and Caleb Kerr of Magdalena have been nominated for this LAA.

LAA5 is the southeast corner of Socorro County and includes Socorro, Bingham, San Antonio, and Bosque Del Apache Refuge. Kate Hoover-Lee currently represents LAA5 and is eligible for re-election. Nominated for LAA5 is Kate Hoover-Lee of Bingham, and Kit Cornelius of Socorro.

Socorro and Catron counties thank John Hand, Jr. for the work he has done for the producers of LAA5. We will miss his hard work and dedication to the Socorro Catron County Committee.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008 and must be returned to the FSA County Office by close of business on December 1, or postmarked by midnight December 1, 2008. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. Newly elected COC members will take office on January 1, 2009.

**FARMERS SERVING FARMERS
"FSA COUNTS ON YOU"**

DIRECT COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. Two types of payments are the direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres (barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, upland cotton and wheat) and payment yields established for the farm. DCP sign-up period for the 2008 crop year began June 25, 2008 and will end **September 30, 2008**. Annual sign-ups for 2009-2010 crops are from October 1 of the prior calendar year to June 1.

DCP is authorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The 2008 Farm Bill provides producers on farms with DCP base acres that total 10.0 acres or less will not receive a direct, counter cyclical, or average crop revenue election program payment, unless the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher.

2009 EQIP SIGNUP – DEADLINE – OCTOBER 17, 2008

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants who wish to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. It offers contracts that provide incentive payments and cost-share to implement conservation practices. If you would like more information or to apply, contact the NRCS office in your area, either Socorro, Datil, Silver City, or Sierra.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP provides assistance to producers of non-insurable crops and commodities, including rangeland, when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The annual gross revenue of the eligible producer, or the annual gross revenue of any individual or entity combined as one "person" with the eligible producer, cannot exceed \$2 million.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage", and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The application and service fees must be filed by the crop application closing date as established by the FSA state committee. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. This fee is authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and is effective as of May 22, 2008. It replaces the previous service fee of the lesser of \$100 per crop or \$300 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

For 2009 only, the NAP crop application closing dates with deadlines prior to December 1 have been extended to December 1, 2008.

NAP Closing dates extended to December 1 include the following:

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| • Original deadline of September 1 | Sod Grass, Onions, Garlic |
| • Original deadline of September 30 | Barley, Canola, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Wheat |
| • Original deadline of November 20 | Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Cane Berries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums |
| • Original deadline of December 1 | Honey, Lettuce |

If you have any questions, please contact the Socorro Catron FSA Office at 575-835-1710.

PAYMENT LIMITATION PROVISIONS

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and payment limitation provisions as defined by the law. A limitation is the total annual payments that a "person" may receive from various federal agricultural programs. Some changes that may affect payment limitation determinations include: member number, member shares, entity type, marriage, death, divorce, or establishment of a trust.

Documents and forms to determine eligibility and payment limitation, once completed, are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in their farming/ranching operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitations. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts, and estates are required to provide names, addresses and ID numbers of their members. Income certification must be provided by each member of an entity for certain program payments.

Some programs are also subject to "actively engaged in farming" requirements, cash-rent tenant rules, permitted entity restrictions, foreign person rules, and average adjusted gross income limitations. No payments subject to some or all of these rules will be released until all forms are provided and determinations have been made.

The following FSA programs are subject to payment limitation and eligibility provisions:

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| • DCP/ Direct Payment | \$40,000 |
| • DCP/ Counter Cyclical | \$65,000 |
| • NAP /Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program | \$100,000 |
| • LDP/ Loan Deficiency & Market Gains | \$75,000 |

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

DEFINITIONS

BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- Has **not** operated a farm for more than 10 years

Note: This requirement applies to all members of an entity.

- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- In the case of an entity, all of the members or stockholders in a corporation must be qualified beginning farmers or ranchers.

Applicability: Waiver of Risk Management Purchase Requirement for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish, TAP, Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), and CRP

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED (as Defined in the 1990 Farm Bill)

A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. **For entity applicants, all members/stockholders of the entity must be socially disadvantaged.**

These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics

Note: Gender is not a covered group under the 1990 Farm Bill definition.

Applicability: Waiver of Risk Management Purchase Requirement for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish, TAP, BCAP, and CRP

LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANCHER

A limited resource farmer or rancher is a producer with **both** of the following:

- Direct or indirect gross farm sales of not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years, to be increased beginning FY 2004 to adjust for inflation using Prices Paid by Farmer Index as compiled by NASS
- Total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in both of the previous 2 years, to be determined annually using Commerce Department data.

Note: For up-to-date data for this definition, a limited resource farmer or rancher status can be determined in an automated system using the web site for the NRCS Limited Resource Farm and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>. This tool will determine a producer's status using their personal data at their State and County location.

Applicability: DCP 10-acre exception, ACRE 10-acre exception, CRP, ECP, NAP, Waiver of Risk Management Purchase Requirement for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish, and TAP

SODBUSTING

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation, such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after December 23, 1985.

Farmers and rancher should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that highly erodible land conservation, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

El Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) prohíbe la discriminación en sus programas y actividades basadas en la raza, color de piel, lugar de origen, sexo, religión, edad, minusvalía, creencias políticas, orientación sexual y estado civil. (No todas las prohibiciones se aplican a todos los programas.) Las personas con minusvalías que requieran medios de comunicación alternativos (Braille, literatura en letra de mayor tamaño, cintas/audio, etc.) deben comunicarse con el programa TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (Voz o Teletexto).

Para procesar quejas sobre cualquier tipo de discriminación escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 o llame al (202) 720-5964 (Voz o Teletexto). El USDA proporciona oportunidades y empleos con igualdad.

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Violations also include convictions for

FSA ensures the well-being of American agriculture, the environment and the American public through efficient and equitable administration of farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance and international export credit programs.

Socorro - Catron Agricultural News

Catron FSA Socorro

John Hand, Jr. Chairman

Mary Fagan Member

Alan Robinson Member

Barbara Adams Member

Kate Hoover-Lee Member

Office Staff

Robbie Jones, CED

Kathy Priest, PT

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF A SEVERE NATURAL DISASTER HITS YOUR FARMING OPERATION?

Whether it be crops or livestock, Farm Service Agency suggests you do the following immediately after damage occurs: 1) Contact the Farm Service Agency and file form CCC-576, Notice of Loss **prior to destroying the crop**; 2) Take pictures of the damage and document the event with rainfall or temperature readings; 3) Contact your Crop Insurance Agent, if insured.

It is extremely important to inform the FSA office when your crops/livestock are affected by severe weather. Reports after the crop is harvested may not be accepted. Although there may not be any immediate assistance available, the notice of loss to the above parties may trigger the request for such assistance.

RECYCLING - The City of Socorro and the Chamber of Commerce are starting a recycling program. They are looking for ideas and partners. Contact Terry Tadano at 575-835-0424. For a list of recycling items and drop off locations, check the Chamber web site at: www.socorro-nm.com and click on the recycle icon or symbol.

OFFICE CLOSINGS - The Socorro Catron FSA Service Center will be closed October 13 for Columbus Day; November 11 for Veterans Day; November 27 for Thanksgiving; December 25 for Christmas; January 1 for New Years Day.

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON October 8 and November 5 at 10:00 am at the Socorro Catron FSA Office.

FARM LOAN STAFF WILL BE IN THE SOCORRO OFFICE ON SEPT 10, OCT 8, NOV12, AND DEC 10. Call the Socorro Catron FSA Office to make an appointment.